

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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S E C R E T USNATO 1569

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS
TAGS: MPOL, MASS, NATO, TU
SUBJECT: TURKISH GOVERNMENT ATTITUDE TOWARD THE US CUT-OFF
OF MILITARY AID TO TURKEY

DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS SECDEF, USNMR SHAPE, USDOCOSOUTH

REFS: A. USNATO 1495
B. STATE 63364
C. USNATO 1536

1. ON THE EVENING OF 19 MARCH, TURKISH DEFENSE ADVISOR TOPUR DISCUSSED

HIS VIEW OF THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT'S ATTITUDE WITH US DEPUTY DEFENSE
ADVISOR (BG BOWMAN). TOPUR IS PRO-US AND PRO-NATO. HE HAS ALSO
WORKED DIRECTLY FOR THE PRESENT TURKISH MINISTER OF DEFENSE FOR A
THREE-YEAR PERIOD EARLIER IN HIS CAREER AND HAS BEEN CALLED BACK TO
TURKEY TO PARTICIPATE IN POLICY DISCUSSIONS DURING CRITICAL PERIODS
IN THE COURSE OF THE LAST YEAR.

2. TOPUR STATED THAT THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT WAS TAKING VERY LITTLE
INTEREST IN THE RECENT US PROPOSALS THAT THEY SUBMIT A TURKISH SHOPPING

LIST OF MILITARY NEEDS FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE OTHER ALLIES. HE SAID
THAT ONE STRONG ELEMENT IN THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT DESIRES TO KEEP
MAXIMUM PRESSURE ON THE US TO REPEAL THE CUT-OFF OF MILITARY AID.
AT THE SAME TIME, ANOTHER STRONG SEGMENT SEEMS TO BE TRYING TO RE-
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ORIENT TURKISH POLICY AWAY FROM NATO AND AWAY FROM THE US AND
TOWARD A SOCIALIST SYSTEM. TOPUR IS CONSIDERABLY WORRIED ABOUT
THIS TREND AND SAID THAT HE HAD ADVISED "THE PEOPLE IN HIS CAPI-
TAL THAT THEY COULD TELL THE US TO LEAVE AND THE US WOULD LEAVE,

BUT IF THE US WERE REPLACED BY THE SOVIETS, THEY MIGHT NOT EVEN BE ABLE TO ASK THE SOVIETS TO LEAVE, AND IF THEY DID, WHO COULD SAY WHAT THE OUTCOME WOULD BE?"

3. TOPUR SAID THAT HE FEARED WE WERE AT AN IMPASSE WHICH WAS CERTAIN TO LEAD TO DISASTER FOR TURKEY. HE SAID THAT HE UNDERSTOOD HOW THE CONGRESS WORKED AND DID NOT EXPECT CONGRESS TO BACK DOWN. ON THE OTHER HAND, HE ALSO KNEW THE TURKS AND WAS SURE THAT IN A VERY FEW WEEKS THERE WOULD BE SERIOUS ACTION TAKEN AGAINST THE US IF THE AID CUT-OFF IS NOT REPEALED. HE ENDED UP BY SAYING THAT TURKEY WOULD BE HURT WORSE THAN THE US AND WOULD SACRIFICE ITS "COMMON HERITAGE" WITH THE WEST.
BRUCE

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED ABOVE ADDRESSEES.

SECRET

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